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5-30-1974

## Newsletter - 1974-05-30

E. De la Garza

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FOR RELEASE: 30 May 1974

93-433

FROM: Kika de la Garza

WASHINGTON, D C -- Letters from a number of South Texans assure me that the issue of those Americans who remain unaccounted for in Southeast Asia is a matter of continuing concern to them--as it certainly is to me.

I have obtained from the Department of Defense a rundown on what action is being taken to account for the MIAs (missing in action) and to provide assistance for their families. I am told that the Department has the status of these missing service men under constant review in strict accordance with existing law. The law requires that specific rights be afforded to certain family members of MIAs in connection with reviews of these cases.

These rights, including that of a hearing, are available to next of kin at present receiving governmental financial benefits. These rights are also being offered by the Department to the primary next of kin in cases where no next of kin are currently receiving financial benefits.

The Defense Department states emphatically that it has never abandoned the next of kin or in any fashion reduced the level and support of assistance provided family members. Full pay and allowances remain in effect and are distributed according to the missing member's request or as modified by family need. Dependents continue to have access to all military facilities and services. Full-time casualty assistance officers remain assigned to each family. Extra benefits, such as space available air travel authority, remain in effect.

Also, the Department assures me that it continues to press the other side for fulfillment of their obligations under the Paris Agreement and that the fullest possible accounting of our missing men is still the unalterable goal, as it should be.

\* \* \*

FIRST OF ITS KIND -- At the invitation of Vice President Gerald Ford, a delegation from the parliamentary body of Soviet Russia came to Washington recently for a discussion meeting with some members of Congress. The chairman of the House Foreign Relations Committee was asked by Speaker Carl Albert to arrange a program for the visitors.

The Committee invited me to participate in a talk session with the Soviet parliamentarians on the economic aspects of detente, including agricultural trade. This was the first official visit to the U S Congress of a delegation from the Soviet parliament, so I was pleased to have a chance to be in on it.

It was interesting. Whether it will turn out to be helpful is too early to tell, we hope it does.

\* \* \*

INAUGURAL ADDRESSES -- All the inaugural speeches of all U S Presidents have been published as a House document. Copies of this book are available to me for sending to South Texans who are interested. It's a publication of lasting value to students of the American Presidency. If you would like to have a copy, please write and tell me so.

\* \* \*

HURRICANE! -- Beginning immediately the National Hurricane Forecast Center at Coral Gables, Fla, will "overwarn" coastal communities about the possibilities of a killer storm striking near them.

Said Dr Neil Frank, director of the Center: "We're going to give people as early a warning as we can to give them as much of an evacuation head start as possible. And when we tell people to get out, we're going to mean it. We'll want people to pay their insurance premiums, pop the kids in the car and get out."

Dr Frank would venture no prediction about which coast--Atlantic or Gulf--will bear the brunt of this year's hurricanes. But South Texans will be interested to know that he said he suspects the 14-year cycle of hurricanes ripping the Gulf Coast may be about to end. Sooner or later, he said, the old pattern of hurricanes hitting the Atlantic Seaboard is certain to return. We certainly don't wish for that, but we pray the destructive storms will stay away from our area.

\* \* \*

BALLET -- We think of it as words and music put in motion with all the grace, beauty and rhythm the soul can bestow on a human. And so it was on a recent Sunday afternoon for the de la Garza family, with Angela once again participating in her school's recital.

We thought she did great and were proud that she received a trophy for helping with the younger students. As many parents before us, and many more in the future, we felt she was the most beautiful and graceful there--and for one bright, glorious Sunday afternoon, we were oblivious to Pavlova, to Fonteyn and to Alonso. There was no Bolshoi,--only Madame Binda's, St John's Ballet, and the immortal prima ballerina of all times, at least to us, was named "Angela."

VISITORS FROM HOME -- Visiting my office from home this past week were: Mr and Mrs Chris Oliveira and their daughters Marly and Sylvia of Kingsville; Vivian Miller from Brownsville; Mr and Mrs Lloyd Crawford from McAllen; and Mr Jim Selman of Weslaco.

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